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JEAN T. NEAL
HEAD VI...
RICHMOND ... VA 23219
MAY 1984

On standardized tests

Student scores have improved

The Appomattox County School System's standardized test scores show an across-the-board improvement in all academic areas for the 1983-84 school session.

Schools recently received the results of the SRA Achievement test battery administered to the 4th, 6th, 8, and 11th grades in March, 1984. Average percentile scores in all academic areas measured by the battery indicate that all grades have improved their academic performance when compared to last year's results.

The Science Research Associates Achievement Battery is administered each year to all Virginia students in grades 4, 8, and 11. Appomattox also administers the tests to 6th grade students. The subject areas covered include reading, mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science. Test results are returned in percentile scores which indicate how Appomattox county students perform when compared to a sample of students tested from all over the United States. A percentile score of 50 is an average score and means that students are performing academically as students would be normally expected to achieve.

Appomattox students performed above the average of 50 in many areas, which indicates that county students as a group should be able to compete successfully with students from any other area of the country, Mr. Lloyd Walton, Superintendent of Schools, is pleased with these latest test scores. Mr. Walton stated that the scores tend to support the school system's philosophy that skills measured by this test battery. He stated that teachers and staff have been working hard during this school session to strengthen the effectiveness of the school instructional program in every subject area.

Reading gains in the four grades tested showed marked improvement. In the 8th grade, reading scores increased by eighteen percentile points over last year. In the fourth grade, reading improved by thirteen percentile points. Mrs. Henrietta Foster, principal of Appomattox Middle School, attributed the increase to hard work by all staff members, teachers and students. "Everyone has been working to improve reading skills," said Mrs. Foster, "not just language arts and English teachers. Vocational and fine arts instructors as well as academic teachers have emphasized improvement in reading. Our test scores attest to the fact that our emphasis has paid off."

Math scores in the fourth grade jumped from 46 last year to 62 this year. In the sixth grade, math moved up six percentile points and in the eight two points, from a high of 60 to 62. At the high school level the increase was four points.

Language arts, social studies, and science moved up toward the 50th percentile or above. "With the increased push for higher academic achievement all over the nation," Walton said, "we feel very happy that our students are showing such improvement. We think our school system ranks up with some of the best in the state and nation."

Each student receives a copy of his or her individual test scores and these results may be used by the student to analyze areas of strength and weakness in each subject tested. School officials encourage parents to study their child's scores and to contact counselors, teachers in the 4th and 8th grades and counselors at the middle school and high school are available for individual conference to discuss the tests with parents and students.

The 2nd grade also took the SRA battery in April, 1984, but the results have not been received yet. Parents should be getting these results before the end of the school year.

ALL THE WAY OVER.....When the air line on the air compressor broke on this truck owned and operated by A. C. Ferguson of Appomattox Friday, the driver could do nothing but roll with the truck. He received only minor injuries according to Trooper Keith Webber of the Virginia State Police. No charges were filed. The truck was carrying a full load of gravel when the incident which happened on a vacant lot across from the Appomattox Fire Department. ((Photo by Bill Sherrod)

Terry to author history

Thomas Ragland Terry has signed a contract with Donning Publications of Norfolk, Virginia, to compile a pictorial history of Appomattox County. The tentative date of completion is August 1. The book is scheduled to go on sale Dec. 1 of this year.

Terry is the son of Joseph B. Terry, Sr. of Appomattox and the late Mary Featherston Terry. He is the grandson of the late Nathaniel Ragland Featherston of Appomattox whose history of Appomattox County was published in 1945.

He is a graduate of Appomattox County High School, William and Mary College and Longwood College. At present he is teaching Latin at the Appomattox County High School.

Pictures of people, places, and activities depicting life in Appomattox County are needed for the compilation of this book.

"If anyone has any pictures wheather old photographs or recent ones that you believe would help tell the story of life in Appomattox County and would make an interesting and worthwhile addition to the book, please contact me at 352-5558," said Terry. "Due to the fact that the compilation must be ready for the publishers by Aug. 1, I will not have time to contact individuals and would appreciate it if you would call me if you have pictures of interest," he concluded.

Thomas Terry

In Appomattox County

Nutrition Center provides more than food for local participants

By FRANCES ABBITT

"The good fellowship" is the term most often used by participants to describe their feeling about the nutrition program sponsored by the Central Virginia Commission on Aging. Sylvia Maddox, site manager for the Appomattox Dining Center located on Main Street, oversees the operation on a daily basis.

"This is probably the only social outlet many of our participants have," said Maddox. As part of her work, she plans monthly programs of activities including shopping trips, Bible study, cookouts, bingo games, crafts, special day programs (such as Mother's Day), nutrition programs, and a birthday party for participants having a birthday in a given month.

Each month the birthday cake is furnished by the Memorial United Methodist Church.

A van driver, Elizabeth Moore, brings in one load of participants and goes back for another. An average of 22 participants take part in the program daily and the center delivers seven home-bound meals to those bedridden or who lack mobility.

The activities get underway at 11 a.m., shortly after the van makes deliveries. First comes the program planned for that day, lasting between 45 minutes and an hour.

Lunch follows the program and usually the group is finished and ready to leave at approximately 1 p.m.

Once a month the group travels to a nursing home or home for the aged and presents a program and enjoys fellowship with the residents of the home.

"We're always looking for volunteers to come and help with the activities of the day," said Maddox. "Mr. Francis Elliott has been such a tremendous help, dropping by on a regular basis to assist in any way he can," she added.

"I enjoy coming here, I think it's wonderful. I try to come every chance I get. The nicest thing is the people. They're all so nice," said Virginia Hix.

Virginia will display needlework in Senior Day activities at River Ridge Mall in Lynchburg on Tuesday of this week.

Robert E. Cyrus is 81 and lives with his daughter and her husband. He enjoys coming to the dining center.

"I like it here very much. I only wish my mother and father could have had something like this program," he said. "The good fellowship with older people means so much. I'm glad we have devotions each day and I know my faith in God is responsible for me being here," he concluded.

"Although daily devotions are a part of our program, participation is voluntary," said Maddox.

Rena Thomas, another participant in the program says "I like the program fine. I look forward to getting up in the morning, knowing I have something to do and somewhere to go."

Fellowship plays a big part in the success of the program. Lea Udgkin, a native of Pennsylvania said "I enjoy all the friends I have here. There's nothing like having good friends."

Eugene Pennix says it is important to be with people your own age. "I enjoy coming here a lot. It does me good to be with people my own age," he said.

Another participant, Erma Meggin-son, had nothing but praise for the site manager, Sylvia Maddox. "She's a fine supervisor. I've been coming here for five or six years. I like it here,"Erma said.

Charlie Turner had more than one reason for coming. "I like it here and I enjoy seeing the women who attend," he said with a laugh.

Getting together like these people do means a lot in so many ways. Even their aches and pains aren't quite so noticable when they're having a good time with other people.

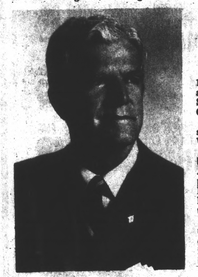
Dora Dillard said, "when I come here I feel so much better. I kind of forget all about my aches and pains."

Other participants George Harvey, Nellie Morgan, Rosa Humbles, Ada Nowlin, Gladys Cheatham and Bernice Mann all agree that the fellowship and fun are a vital part of their time spent at the Nutrition Center.

The nutrition program was started in recognition of the fact that many older people were not getting adequate nutrition and that this was affecting their health, outlook, and ability to maintain their independence. Individuals who are 60 years of age or older, who are in need of better nutrition and meet agency criteria are eligible.

"If you know of someone you feel needs to participate in the program call 352-7820 or stop by the site between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday," said Maddox.

IT WAS BIRTHDAY PARTY TIME last week at the Appomattox Nutrition Center on Main Street. Participants in the program enjoy a variety of activities daily as well as an appetizing meal. A birthday party is held each month for all those having a birthday during that month. (Photo by Bill Sherrod)



Dan Daniel --- To speak at Memorial Day ceremony here.

War dead to be honored

According to American Legion Post 104 officials, a large crowd is anticipated for Memorial Day Services Sunday, May 27, at 2 p.m. in the Courthouse Square.

Watkins M. Abbitt will present the speaker for the occasion, Congressman W.C. (Dan) Daniel.

Other features of the program will be musical selections by the Appomattox High School Band, the placing of a memorial wreath by Dennis Gregg, post commander and Patsy Harvey, secretary-treasurer of the Legion Auxiliary.

Commander Gregg urges the public to join in this tribute to these heroic citizens. He stated that in case of inclement weather the program would be moved to the county courtroom.

Veterans honored are: World War I James R. Beasley, Jerry S. Seasley, James T. Cyrus, Edward B. Gunter, Robert F. Irving, Sam J. Harvey, Herman L. Lee, Thomas A. Owen, Phillip B. Swan, Campbell W. Teeter, Melvin M. Watkins, and Melvin Watson.

World War II servicemen include: George D. Akers, Dewey C. Almond, Harris N. Almond, Jesse J. Almond, William Anderson, James H. Bethel, John A. Bingham, Jr., Paul C. Brown, Robert L. Childress, William Conner, Lacy L. Dickerson Jr., Thomas A. Doss, William G. Harris, Edward J. Irving, James D. Lee, David R. Mayberry, Raymond Moore, Ernest Morgan, William R. Morris, Charlie Nelson, Noel O. Price, James W. Roberts, Jr., Winford J. Rush, James St.John, Thomas A. Trent, Alton D. Turner and Clovice M. Turner.

Korean War dead honored are Herman C. Doss, Alfred E. Ferguson, Edward J. Giles.

Vietnam War dead honored include Fred Henry Patterson, Calvin Coolidge Tolley, Jr., Curtis Whitted, and Roger W. Grubbs.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Being a longtime N.Y. Yankee baseball fan, I found out they were to be on TV Saturday. Did my chores early and settled down to watch. But the Yanks were not doing well. Instead of a "Seventh inning stretch" I got off to get a slice of apple pie. At Maude's Restaurant, parked next to a neat Oldsmobile with an imprinted sign saying "Miss Virginia." And on the Atlantic City for a try at Miss America." "introduced myself and got her autograph to add to my VIP collection. Also her chaperone, Ms. Smith. "Miss Virginia" is Lisa Ahff, Roanoke.

Come home to find a visitor looking for "Robinson." Mr. Hubert King, of Washington, D.C., a writer here looking up material for a magazine article on Joel Walker Sweeney, Appomattox native who invented the five-string banjo. King is a veteran of the conflict in Southeast Asia, retired for the Air Force with rank of Major, and is himself a banjo player. He also visited the local Historical Society Museum adjacent to the Court House.

I should have some "Keys to the City" to hand out.

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Goin for a copy of the May 13 Baltimore Sun, one of our top newspapers. Mr. and Mrs. Goin lived in Baltimore for some thirty years and moved to Appomattox about three and a half years ago. Say they have read this column for years. Thanks and welcome.

General membership dinner meeting Appomattox County Chamber of Commerce 6:30 p.m. May 30, ACHS cafeteria. President W. Lloyd Vaughan promises an interesting program.

Coming up Memorial Day program 2 p.m. Sunday, May 27, Court House Square. Congressman Dan Daniel. High School Band. Sponsored by American Legion Post 104. Dennis E. Gragg is Commander.

Freddie Lawson starring as chapion tennis player. The Raiders have had a good year in athletics and ere we know it, football will be No. One.

Monday mornings, a good time to gather wherever and hear weekend news. Such as a loose truck sailing across the rail tracs down Court Street and into a field. And of emergency runs by our fine Rescue Squad.

Came upon an old travel diary and an entry about stopping in Alabama and having oil changed in may car. Got four quarts of oil and ten gallons of gasoline, all for $4.80. When? The Good Old Days.

Lots of planting this week. Late farm and garden work getting attended to. In fact, I will say "Thanks for Reading" and head for my garden spot, hoe in hand, Wish me luck.

Chamber to meet Wednesday

John Marucci of Roanoke will be guest speaker at the spring general membership meeting of the Appomattox County Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting is slated for next Wednesday, May 30, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Appomattox County High School.

Light refreshments will be served at 6:30, and the dinner will follow at 7 p.m.

Marucci is with the Dale Carnegie School, and is planning a presentation described as motivating and entertaining.

Chamber members will also hear a report on recent chamber activities at Wednesday's general membership meeting.

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